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TAMIL NADU APPRECIATES THE SACRIFICES OF THE ARMED FORCES

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 6.12.2013 (English Translation)

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa donated Rs.25,000 towards the Flag Day Fund on 7.12.2013.

"In recognition and appreciation of the incomparable services and magnificent sacrifices of the Defence forces whose personnel protect the country even by laying down their lives, December 7 is observed every year as 'Flag Day'.

Besides protecting day and night our borders that extend from the Himalayas to Kanniyakumari, our soldiers shine as martyrs in the service of the country. It is our social responsibility to protect the interest of their families. To discharge this responsibility without any blemish, the fund raised through the sale of flags is utilised for their rehabilitation and the welfare of their families.

My Government has been implementing several welfare schemes for the welfare and economic improvement of ex-servicemen. These include enhanced ex-gratia to the heirs of those killed in action, enhanced assistance for the marriage of their daughters, placements on compassionate grounds to their family members and enhanced consolidated pay to the ex-servicemen drafted into the Temple Protection Force.

It is well known that Tamil Nadu has always been in the forefront of protecting the interests of ex-servicemen. I affectionately solicit all the people of Tamil Nadu to munificently patronise the Flag Day fund by way of declaring your patriotism and sense of honouring sacrifice to the entire country."

"My Government has been implementing several welfare schemes for the welfare and economic improvement of ex-servicemen."

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Higher education improvement is high on the agenda of my Government with emphasis on expansion, inclusion and excellence as pillars of higher education. My Government has taken and will take all possible measures to augment the much required and treasured human resources.

- Selvi J Jayalalithaa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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In this issue....

- **Convocation Address delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the 34th Convocation of the Anna University on 22.11.2013 ....3**
- **Chief Minister presents awards to Carlsen and Anand. 9**
- **Chief Minister's voice loud and clear on behalf of Tamils in Sri Lanka (English Translation)..11**
- **Infrastructure for sports in Chennai gets boost 30**
- **Amma Unavagam opened at General Hospital 31**
- **Buildings opened for veterinary dispensaries 39**
- **Police team wins football trophy 58**

Front Wrapper: **Emperor Akihito** and **Empress Michiko** of Japan held discussions with His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Dr. K. Rosaiah** and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** at Raj Bhavan on 5.12.2013.

3rd Wrapper: The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** handed over on 25.11.2013 a silver plaque to Thiru. Viswanathan Anand who finished runner-up in the 2013 FIDE World Chess Championship Trophy held in Chennai.

4th Wrapper: The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** presented Thiru. Magnus Carlsen of Norway, the winner in the 2013 FIDE World Chess Champion contest, the golden championship trophy and a specially made Olive garland on 25.11.2013.

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TRANSFORM LIVES, CHIEF MINISTER URGES GRADUATE ENGINEERS

Convocation Address delivered by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the 34th Convocation of the Anna University on 22.11.2013.

"I deem it a privilege to deliver the 34th Convocation address of this premier institution – the Anna University. It is always a pleasure to witness the exhilarating scene of young, energetic graduates clad in academic robes and to behold the joy, the inspiration and the enthusiasm which this day of the University kindles in all of us. It is indeed a moment of great satisfaction and joy as your academic efforts, testimonials of study and work faithfully accomplished, come to fruition. This is a defining moment in your life, as you prepare to leave the confines of the college to embrace a gleaming future. Today is your day and you have rightfully earned it with your determination and hard work. This convocation ceremony is characterized by sheer joy but also tinged with a shade of nostalgia. The joy is for the successful completion of a difficult rigorous academic programme and the thrill of being at the threshold of a promising professional career. The nostalgia is for the glorious days spent in the campus, the soaring spirits, bonds nurtured, freedom unlimited and no shackles of accountability.

In various other parts of the world, this occasion is called commencement because you are commencing your journey of translating

your education into benefit to Society at large. It is an emergence from an atmosphere of cloistered seclusion, of protected insulation from the acerbities of life. You were blessed with the time and the inclination to dream your dreams and to fashion your inner world and now it is time to commence your contribution to the world outside. You must realise that your education is the result of supreme self-sacrifice on the part of your parents who had to stint even on the necessities of life in order to give you an exemplary education.

Universities have been naively viewed as "engines" of innovation that churn out new ideas that can be translated into commercial innovations and regional growth. Universities are far more important as the Nation's primary source of knowledge creation and talent. Universities have to redefine their role based on sound reflection on the past and future growth to enable social well-being and lead a rigorous and innovative inquiry to achieve this. This holistic education requires teachers to be enablers and mentors of the education process. Within the domain of science, Universities have a distinctive obligation to nurture and fulfill the deep human desire to understand everything — from the smallest elementary particle to the sweep of the galaxies — to rightly accelerate efforts in harvesting new technologies from knowledge in its most basic form. The mandate of Universities to provide education that will enable a high quality of inquiry among their students and build their capacities to work as good professionals has not changed. But it is imperative that it should not fail to mould its students into apostles of culture determined to extend the benefits of university education to the average person and raise the intellectual tone of Society as a whole. Mere knowledge which gratifies curiosity is different from culture which refines personality.

Anna University is the pride of Tamil Nadu and it is indeed a tremendous accomplishment that you have graduated from one of the finest institutions of the country. Born as a Survey School in May, 1794, the College of Engineering was one of the most esteemed British Indian Educational Institutions and one of the ancient professional training schools in India. It owes its inception to Michael Topping, the astronomer, geographical and marine surveyor, at the Presidency of Fort St. George. During 1858, the name of the Survey School was changed to "Civil Engineering School". The college became the first Institution in the country to award a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

In the year 1920 the college was shifted to its present campus at Guindy. The College was the first in India to introduce a degree course in Electrical Engineering in 1932. Yet more first degree programmes in Telecommunication and Highway Engineering were started in 1945. The Anna University was formed on the 4th September 1978 by amalgamating the College of Engineering, Guindy; the Alagappa Chettiar College of Technology; the Madras Institute of Technology and the School of Architecture and Planning.

During the year 2001, Anna University was converted as an affiliating type University by bringing together about 250 Engineering Colleges in the State of Tamil Nadu. Anna University was reverted to the unitary type University on 18th June 2010. From the 1st August, 2012, it was again converted as an affiliating type University, the largest technological University in Asia with 637 Institutions under one umbrella to ensure uniform quality in Engineering education across the State and to synergise the efforts towards technological advancement. Four Regional

Centres have been established to co-ordinate the academic and administrative functions of the University. The University is today widely acclaimed for its academic excellence and research in frontier areas such as Electronics and Communications, Computer Science, Information Technology, Aeronautical Engineering, Biotechnology, Crystal Growth, Remote Sensing, Environmental Studies, Water Resources, Climate Change and Adaptation Research, Nano-Science and Technology to mention a few. The Anna University has 34 Departments and 48 autonomous Centres. The University currently offers 28 UG Programmes and 86 PG Programmes in its four main campuses; and 37 UG Programmes and 56 PG Programmes in its affiliated colleges with a student registration of more than 7 Lakhs. I am informed that an astounding number of 5500 Ph.D. scholars are on roll. Anna University successfully conducts Single Window Counseling for UG and PG admissions every year covering about 1.85 lakh candidates.

The degrees you are about to receive will certify in writing that you are among the best engineers of the country for you carry the brand name ‘Anna University’. It is a living and dynamic institution dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence and spirit of enquiry. It is a reservoir of intellectual forces of the Nation and the clearing house for intellectual ideas. This is an environment in which knowledge and intellect can blossom. The University has become more relevant than ever as a provider of talent, knowledge and innovation in this age of knowledge-based capitalism. I would like to quote the words of Theodore von Karman, “Science is the study of the world as it is; Engineering is the creation of the world oftomorrow”. Engineering is the professional art of applied science for the optimum conversion of natural resources to the uses of humankind. It is the root of all technical and technological instruction. Technology pervades and dominates in all areas of human endeavour. Engineers are creative and inventive and serve humanity in myriad ways. I exhort you, the engineers of the future to energise the virtual circle of prosperity and development through technological innovation.

Exceptional engineers use the engineering process on broad challenges, not just traditional engineering problems and I can see that all of you belong to that mettle – the league of citizens who care about the problems faced by our people.You should seek to calibrate the value of life and your vocation by whatever positive changes it can

make in the lives of others. The phalanx of ideas you generate, should revolutionise the solutions to the problems faced by Society. All technological inventions be they in computer engineering, electronics, bio-engineering and biotechnology and a host of other fields should contribute to improving the quality of living of our people. You are going to embark on a new journey in your life — a journey, which I hope will not only lead you to a fulfilling career; but also, through your dedication and efforts, enable you to, in some significant way, contribute to the faster development of our State. The truth is that Tamil Nadu needs you — your passion, creativity and drive. It needs the spirit of exploration and the thirst for knowledge that you have embraced here in this great institution.

You have a social responsibility — a responsibility that cannot be shirked, or shrugged off as insignificant. You must retain in you the spirit of trusteeship and contribute substantially to your roots, the Society around, the institutions that brought you up and the State and the Nation at large. The real road to contribution and Nation-building begins

today. I will be watching you as you bloom into ambassadors of change. Tamil Nadu is on the road to being the numero uno State in the Country. You will all be integral to it.

This convocation is the hallmark of your having received a liberal education; an education which has imbued you with a wide outlook, which enables you to break the bondage of narrow self-interests, sectional, sectarian and parochial prejudices. Your knowledge and training carry with them the larger responsibilities of citizenship. Take your University experience with you in your heart and in your mind. The world today requires constant learning, constant re-education; constant attention to continued development as a person; and no institution, no job, no training course can offer what you have taken from here. Remember that you are the trustees and guardians of the reputation and prestige of the Anna University.

Tamil Nadu is metamorphosing into the 'Innovation hub' and 'Knowledge capital' of India. As a prelude to achieving this laurel, my Government has initiated several schemes, a few of which I will mention…. Establishment of 'University Business Collaboration Centre'; Incubation and Technology Transfer Centres; Post Graduate Centres of Excellence with high tech laboratories in Universities; the setting up of network libraries; soft skill training centres for empowering students to develop managerial skill and employability; the establishment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); Training Centres for Differently Abled; and ICT enabled Self Employment Training Centres

for Women; the setting up of a Centre for Tourism and Hotel Management; Centre for Tamil Computing; introducing new courses in Government Arts and Science Colleges; and achieving Community Development through Polytechnic Colleges. My Government has accorded prime priority to higher education. Every possible incentive is being given to students to handhold them in completing their education. This includes provision of cash incentives to students; and provision of learning equipment including laptop computers. During April 2013 an allocation of 150 crore rupees was made towards the infrastructure development of Regional Centres and the constituent colleges of the Anna University. In an effort to fulfill the aspirations of rural students, I have ordered the opening of four new Government Engineering colleges which have started functioning. Higher education plays a key role in its ability to induce change and progress in Society. Knowledge alone will enable us to deal with the present and future challenges that confront us in every sphere of life whether it be environment, health or food security. Higher education improvement is high on the agenda of my Government with emphasis on expansion, inclusion and excellence as pillars of higher education. My Government has taken and will take all possible measures to augment the much required and treasured human resources.

Here, are gathered the shapers of our State's destiny; the technocrats driven by idealism and ambition combined in generous proportions. The qualities of mind and character should be constantly reinforced and reformed and your commitment to service as you progress in your respective careers should be strengthened; and you should keep your ideals undimmed.

The foundation you have built here at this august University will stand you in great stead for the rest of your life. I congratulate those who by dint of hard work and disciplined effort have attained distinctions and won laurels. For those who have not fared well too, opportunities are aplenty. You can always salvage whatever you want. My Government does not hesitate to walk the last mile. Each individual to me is precious. I invoke the Almighty's blessings on each one of you to help you hold your head high and tread the right path.

I congratulate the teaching and the non-teaching staff who are the support girders of this institution. I convey my deep appreciation to the parents; some of whom have faced relentless odds to accomplish their dream of positioning their children in Society.

I shall close with the memorable words of Lord Oxford to the students of the Aberdeen University, "Keep always with you, whatever your course may be, the company of great thoughts, the inspiration of great ideals, the example of great achievement, the consolation of great failures. So equipped you can face without perturbation the buffets of circumstances, the caprice of fortune or the inscrutable vicissitudes of life."

I wish all of you glorious and successful careers.

Thank you."

CHIEF MINISTER PRESENTS AWARDS TO CARLSEN AND ANAND

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 25.11.2013 presented Thiru. Magnus Carlsen of Norway, the winner in the 2013 FIDE World Chess Champion contest, the golden Championship trophy, a cheque for Rs. 9.90 crore and a specially made olive garland and congratulated him on his victory.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the runner-up, Thiru. Viswanathan Anand a silver plaque and a cheque for Rs. 6.03 crore. The contest held for the first time in India was jointly organised by the Tamil Nadu Government and the Tamil Nadu State Chess Association at Chennai.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 8.4.2013 that the 2013 FIDE World Chess Champion contest would take place at Chennai in November between Grand Master Thiru. Viswanathan Anand of Tamil Nadu, the 2012 and 5-time World Champion and Thiru. Magnus Carlsen of Norway, ranked number one in World Chess and with 2872 points, the top scorer in the FIDE rank list.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also allotted Rs. 29 crore for this contest, and gave guidance and advice on conducting the match in an excellent way, in her capacity as the patron of the event . Thiru. Magnus Carlsen and his team visited Chennai in August, inspected the venue, acquainted themselves with the preparatory work that was going on for the event and expressed their satisfaction.

To create awareness about chess among students in connection with the holding of the World Champion Match in Chennai, contests were organised at four levels for school students in the first week of October and November and prizes were distributed. Also, competitions for international grandmaster title, FIDE's rank list, National Championship and a chess puzzle event were conducted. A seminar for FIDE umpires and trainees was held. Players from Tamil Nadu other states and countries enthusiastically participated in these events.

The 2013 World Championship contest was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Jawaharlal Nehru indoor stadium, Chennai on 7.11.2013. The first round of the contest started on 9.11.2013. The first 4 rounds ended in a draw and both players gained 2 points each. Thiru. Magnus Carlsen edged out Thiru. Viswanathan Anand by winning the 5th and 6th rounds and was in the forefront with a 4-2 score. The 7th and 8th rounds ended in a draw and the score tally was 5-3. Thiru. Magnus Carlsen won the 9th round (score6-3). The 10th round was a draw, giving winning point of 6.5.

The FIDE President Thiru. Kirsan Illyumzhinov presented a gold medal to Thiru. Magnus Carlsen and a silver medal to Thiru. Viswanathan Anand.

CHIEF MINISTER'S VOICE LOUD AND CLEAR ON BEHALF OF TAMILS IN SRI LANKA

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi **J Jayalalithaa's** speech while moving a Government special resolution in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 12.11.2013 against India's participation in the CHOGM meet in Colombo (English Translation)

Perarignar Anna's view that the Tamil Nadu Government should raise its voice in protest wherever Tamils were put to trouble in the world, expressed in 1958 while referring to the "plethora of most disturbing news about the Sri Lankan Tamils' sufferings", serves as a guideline to us.

In tune with this view, the All India Anna DMK Government headed by me has been consistently raising its voice for the protection of the interests of Sri Lankan Tamils.

After I took over the office of Chief Minister for the third time in May 2011, I moved a resolution in this Assembly on 8.6.2011, urging the Indian Government to pressurise the UNO to declare those who had committed war crimes and genocide in Sri Lanka as war criminals. The resolution further wanted the Indian Government to take steps for the imposition of an economic blockade on Sri Lanka. The resolution was passed unanimously and was forwarded to the Central Government.

Following this, I moved another resolution in this Assembly on 27.3.2013, urging the Indian Government to stop calling Sri Lanka as a "Friendly Country" and to take steps to bring in a motion in the United Nations Security Council seeking an independent, fair International inquiry into the war crimes and genocide committed in Sri Lanka, an economic

blockade of Sri Lanka and a referendum on an "Independent Eezham". The resolution was passed by the Assembly and was forwarded to the Centre.

In continuation of this, I moved a resolution in this Assembly on 24.10.2013 urging the Indian Government to totally boycott the Commonwealth Conference (CHOGM) to be held in Sri Lanka in November this year, not to send any representative, even nominally, on behalf of India to the meet, to immediately convey to Sri Lanka the Indian Government's decision in this regard and to take steps to suspend Sri Lanka from the Commonwealth Federation until that Government takes steps to accord Sri Lankan Tamils liberty and equality of status with the Sinhalese. The resolution was unanimously passed and was forwarded to the Central Government.

Besides, I requested the Prime Minister, through a letter dated 25.3.2013, that India should strive to shift the venue of the Commonwealth meet to some other country and that India should not participate in the Commonwealth Heads Meet held in Sri Lanka.

By way of conveying the feelings of Tamils to the Indian Government, 3 resolutions were passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in the last two-and-a-half years on the Sri Lankan Government's genocide and were sent to the Central Government: the emotive Sri Lanka Tamils issue was considered in a mature way and these resolutions were passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. These resolutions were not passed out of emotion. But till date no decision favourable to Tamils has been taken by the Centre .

On the contrary, the Centre has announced that instead of the Indian Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister will participate in CHOGM at Colombo hosted by the racist Sinhalese Government which had committed a genocide on Tamils. Considering the non-participation of the Prime Minister on behalf of India in 5 of the last 10 Commonwealth Heads Meeting from 1993, the present decision of the Central Government is a usual one, and does not

offer any solace to Tamils even as it doesn't respect their sentiments. This decision of the Central Government is highly regrettable. This participation will only convey the message that India accepts / recognises the inhuman and barbaric acts of Sri Lanka.

No rights have been conferred on the ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka though four years have passed by since the peak phase of war ended there. They are still under army surveillance. Sinhalese have been settled in Tamils' areas. The dislocated Tamils continue to remain dislocated. Such a sad situation prevails there. They continue to suffer various kinds of difficulties. Elected Provincial Councils have not been conferred the necessary powers. Those who committed war crimes and genocide have not yet been punished. No meaningful action has been taken towards this. Therefore, India's participation in the CHOGM in Sri Lanka is tantamount to providing security to the perpetrators of war crimes there. India's name will be sullied by this participation as it will be taken that India has supported the Sri Lanka President holding the post of Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth Federation for the next two years.

The Central Government's decision to depute the Foreign Minister to the Commonwealth Meet to represent India amounts to trampling upon the sentiments of Tamils. Surely, people of Tamil Nadu will never endorse this decision.

Though the Indian Government has committed till date several betrayals by providing arms and training to the Sinhalese racist Government for the elimination of the Tamil race, Tamils all over the world and in this Assembly expected India, by way of atonement and by way of punishing those who had committed war crimes and genocide in Sri Lanka, to take the firm and stable stand of non- participation in the Commonwealth Meet in Sri Lanka even nominally. But the Central Government has betrayed the Tamils once again.

Hence, I move this following resolution that reflects the feeling of all the Tamils.

RESOLUTION

"This august House had unanimously passed a Resolution urging the Government of India to ensure that India totally boycotts the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka and further that there should be no representation, even nominal, on behalf of India at the said meeting and further that the decision of India in this regard should be immediately conveyed to Sri Lanka and that India should take necessary action to have Sri Lanka temporarily suspended from the membership of the Commonwealth until the Government of Sri Lanka takes steps to accord ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka liberties and equality of status with the Sinhalese. The text of this Resolution was also communicated to the Government of India. In a manner totally contrary to this Resolution, the Government of India has announced that India would be represented at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Sri Lanka by a delegation led by the Union Minister of External Affairs. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly expresses its deep anguish at this decision of the Government of India. This decision of the Government

of India, which does not offer any solace to Tamils and does not respect the sentiments of the Tamils, is a deeply distressing act.

By participating in the Commonwealth Summit, India would be placed in a situation where it is seen as accepting and endorsing the inhumane acts and the offences against humanity committed by the Sri Lankan Government. Further, India will be subjected to ignominy that it supported the Sri Lankan President to become the Commonwealth Chair-in-Office for two years. Tamils cannot accept or bear the thought of India being subjected to such an ignominy. Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly once again strongly urges the Government of India that, in keeping with the unanimous opinion of the Tamil people and respecting their sentiments, India should totally boycott the Commonwealth Meetings in Sri Lanka and no one on behalf of India should participate even in a token manner in the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' meeting on 13.11.2013 and in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held from 15.11.2013 to 17.11.2013 in Sri Lanka".

I appeal to all the Hon'ble Members through the Hon'ble Speaker to pass this historic resolution unanimously.

Modern Dog Vans

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa undertook a detailed review on 6.10.2012 of the scheme for sterilisation of street dogs and prevention of rabid dog bites and offered suggestions for energetic and effective implementation of the scheme across the State.

On the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Government has allotted Rs. 5.40 crore for the construction of 80 kennels and purchase of 60 dog vans with modern facilities. The kennels are for keeping the streets dogs in the urban local body areas both before and after sterilisation.

The modern dog vans, each costing about Rs. 6.50 lakh, are specially designed to catch the dogs humanely and transport them for sterilisation. Each van has six separate enclosures, well lighted and ventilated, one for each dog caught. The Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons presented the vans on 12.11.2013 to the 9 Municipal Corporations (excepting Chennai) and 126 municipalities.

'PARTICIPATION IN CHOGM A SNUB TO TAMIL NADU'

D.O. letter dated 12.11.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"Kindly recall my letters dated 25.3.2013 and 17.10.2013 indicating that in view of the strong sentiments prevailing in Tamil Nadu against the war crimes and genocide perpetrated against Sri Lankan Tamils in the closing stages of the civil war in that country and the continuing human rights abuses and denial of basic dignity and equality to Sri Lankan Tamils, India should stay away in entirety from the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held at Colombo, Sri Lanka in November, 2013. On 24.10.2013 the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous Resolution that India should totally boycott the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka in the month of November this year and further that there should be no representation, even nominal, on behalf of India at that said meeting and further that the decision of India in this regard should be immediately conveyed to Sri Lanka and that India should take necessary action to

have Sri Lanka temporarily suspended from the membership of the Commonwealth until the Government of Sri Lanka takes steps to accord ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka liberty and equality of status with the Sinhalese. This text of the Resolution was also communicated to you in my letter dated 25.10.2013.

Regrettably, the Government of India has chosen to participate in the CHOGM by sending a delegation headed by the Union Minister of External Affairs, showing scant consideration to the unanimous Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Far from administering a stern message to the Sri Lankan Government, this decision, which flies in the teeth of the unanimous Resolution of the Tamil Nadu Assembly of the 24th October, 2013 is, in fact, a snub to the people of Tamil Nadu, giving short shrift to their sentiments. There is now widespread disappointment and disillusionment at this stand of the Government of India and a continuing sense of injustice in Tamil Nadu on this deeply emotive issue.

Accordingly, in view of the groundswell of public and political opinion against this decision of the Government of India the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly met at a Special Session on 12.11.2013 to discuss this highly emotive and sensitive issue. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution to once again urge the Government of India to totally boycott the CHOGM and related meetings to be held in Colombo.

I am communicating the Text of the Resolution passed on 12.11.2013, for your urgent consideration and immediate action."

News in Picture

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 2.12.2013 presided over a review meeting at the Secretariat, on the power situation in the State. The Chief Secretary to Government, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Corporation, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Secretary, Energy Department, Secretary, Agriculture Department, Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department and other high Government officials participated.

Chief Minister inspects upkeep in Vandalur zoo

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa, who is also the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Zoo Authority made a surprise visit to the Arignar Anna Zoological Park at Vandalur on 12.11.2013, inspected the various animal enclosures and reviewed the procedures adopted for the maintenance of the animals there as also the infrastructure available in the zoo.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's first call was the Interpretation centre, constructed at a cost of Rs. 20 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister then moved on to the different enclosures where jungle cattle, small bears, Himalayan black bears, European brown bears, non-poisonous snakes, white tortoise, Indian black tortoise, three line mountain tortoise, marshland crocodiles, hippopotamus, ostrich, giraffe, zebra and elephant are kept.

On earlier visits, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had named 5 white tiger cubs as Rama, Chandra, Arjuna, Athreya and Kaveri, a lion cub as Veera and 3 genetically enhanced tiger cubs as Vidya, Arthi and Nethra. The Hon'ble

Chief Minister visited these enclosures as also the 'Vedanthangal' birds aviary. The Hon'ble Chief Minister enquired about their food habits.

In connection with the 64th birthday of the Hon'ble Chief Minister last year, saplings of banyan, peepal, 'naaval', mango, jack fruit, guava , and pomegranate trees had been planted at the deer safari in the zoo. Eight percolation ponds were also being constructed for rain harvesting. For the first time in the whole of India, stainless steel cages are being erected for the animals. The Hon'ble Chief Minister inspected these cages, the saplings that have grown well and the 8th percolation pond.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister lauded the officials and the workers for maintaining the park and the animals well, enquired about the facilities and security given to the visitors and also advised them on how to improve their efficiency further.

The Tamil Nadu Zoo Authority was restructured on 6.3.2013 and at its first meeting, held at the Secretariat on 28.5.2013 with the Hon'ble Chief Minister presiding. Several issues like security both inside and outside the Zoological Park, entrance fee and facilities for the visiting public were discussed. The Hon'ble Chief Minister allotted Rs. 2.24 crore for works like fixing stainless steel doors, purchase of new conservancy vehicles, appointing drivers for these vehicles and creating infrastructure for rain harvesting in the zoo.

Communal Violence Bill Flawed On Multiple Counts

D.O. letter dated 2.12.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"The Ministry of Home Affairs has written to the State Governments enclosing a copy of the revised Prevention of Communal Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2013. This Draft Bill is a modified version of the earlier Draft Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill which was first circulated in 2011. I understand from media reports that the Government of India is contemplating the introduction of the Bill in the ensuing Winter Session of Parliament.

I had already voiced my strong opposition to the Bill and laid out my detailed objections to the various provisions contained in the Draft Bill when it was placed in the public domain in July, 2011. My main objections were that the proposed Bill will not meet the desired objective of curbing vociferous religiosity or communal violence. Many provisions of the Bill were vaguely worded and left themselves open to wide subjective interpretations and hence misuse. I had also pointed out that the Bill, under the garb of preventing communal and targeted violence, was yet another blatant attempt to totally bypass the State Governments and keep them absolutely powerless and totally at the mercy of the Centre. Above all, the Bill was against the Constitutional scheme of distribution of powers between the Centre and the States and vitiates the norms for Centre – State relations envisaged by the Justice Sarkaria Commission. Further, Clause 20 of the 2011 Bill giving extensive powers to the Central Government and the proposed National Authority for Communal Harmony, Justice and Reparation, was a direct assault on State autonomy. Hence, I had pointed out that it would be extremely unwise to posit the Bill as a solution to the problem.

In the Sixteenth Meeting of the National Integration Council held on 23rd September, 2013, although this Bill was not specifically listed in the agenda, I had again voiced my opposition to any move to enact such a legislation.

The new Draft Bill, 2013, now circulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs contains

some modifications over the earlier 2011 draft. We have studied the modifications carefully. **I find that the modifications made in the revised Draft Bill, 2013, are cosmetic at best and many of the serious issues with the earlier Draft Bill still remain**.

Many of the problematic clauses in the original Draft Bill have been retained with little or no modification. This includes Clause 3 (f), which defines "hostile environment" and includes inter alia, an act that may "deprive or threaten to deprive such person of his or her fundamental rights" and **"any other act, whether or not it amounts to an offence under this Act, that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment".** Such a definition, which makes 'any other act', which remains undefined, a crime, is very prone to subjective and arbitrary interpretation and **consequential** misuse.

Clauses 5 to 12 of the earlier Draft "Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011" have been renumbered as Clauses 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A and 9B in the new Draft "Prevention of Communal Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2013". The said clauses list out offences of communal violence and there is no significant change in the content. Clause 6 in the new Draft Bill is problematic. In defining the offence of "hate propaganda" it states, "whoever disseminates or broadcasts any information, or publishes or displays any advertisement or notice, that could reasonably be construed to demonstrate an intention to promote or incite hatred…." This definition which only requires a very weak level of proof of "intention" could lend itself to a great deal of subjectivity in interpretation and is liable to misuse.

The clauses 13 to 15 in the original Draft Bill have been renumbered as Clauses 10A, 10B and 10C in the new Draft and they along with clause 9B place an unreasonable burden on public servants and place them at grave risk of partisan and politically motivated victimization. Dereliction of duty (Clause 10A) and breach of command responsibility (Clauses 10B and 10C) need to be dealt with as administrative and disciplinary matters. Making them criminal offences will jeopardize the morale of public servants. The question of due exercise of lawful authority is a highly subjective issue, which needs to take into account the prevailing circumstances. Further, the provisions regarding dereliction of duty and breach of command responsibility seem to presuppose that all communal violence or breach of public order can be prevented by exercise of whatever authority or powers are available to a public servant. Communal violence is a much more complex issue and should not be reduced to a simplistic prescription of penalizing public servants. This may give rise to a situation where, for fear of being held responsible for so called dereliction of duty or breach of command responsibility, public servants may desert their responsibilities, choosing the option of disciplinary action for dereliction of duty rather than criminal

action for dereliction of duty as defined in this Bill. Of course, if any public servant is found to have contributed to communal violence the option of prosecution for abetment or actual commission of offence is always available. The mandatory provision for ordering a judicial inquiry headed by a Judge of the High Court in all cases of large scale communal violence, in addition to investigation held by the Police, into the discharge of public functions by public servants is yet another measure which will demoralize and demotivate public servants without any corresponding benefits. Further, the provisions of the new Draft "Prevention of Communal Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill 2013" seem to almost encourage Government Officials and Police Officers and personnel, in particular, to be insubordinate and mutinous by not obeying the orders of their superiors. Such an incitement would only lead to chaos and anarchy and a total breakdown of the law and order machinery. I strongly oppose the provisions such as are found in Clauses 9B to 11 of the Bill.

Many of the provisions in Chapter III, IVA (Prevention of Acts leading to Communal Violence), VII (Investigation, Prosecution and Trial) amount to duplication of existing provisions of the Cr.P.C.

In the new Draft Bill, 2013, the idea of setting up separate National and State Authorities for Communal Harmony, Justice and Reparation has been given up and instead the National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commissions have been conferred the powers and functions that were originally envisaged for the National and State level authorities. Hence the Commissions have been given unfettered powers to interfere with the working of State Governments and its officials. They have been empowered to issue directives to State Governments and its officials, which they would be bound to follow. It should not be forgotten that Law and Order is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and any attempt to interfere with the State Government's power is totally unacceptable. Even under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Rules, powers are vested in the State Government and not in an external body in the matter of relief and rehabilitation.

Responsibilities and powers of the National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commissions and similar bodies should be confined to policy issues and not day-to-day monitoring of 'build up of offences' or hate propaganda. This is the duty of the Administration and cannot be usurped by any Commission. If the SHRC is to be empowered as envisaged in 36(g) to ensure timely and effective investigation and prosecution of offences, it will be a complete invasion upon the authority of the State Government. Similarly, the proposal to give the NHRC and SHRC powers to issue advisories and recommendations is an unwarranted exercise in investing in such bodies authority without responsibility. **To underline the obvious, the framers of the Bill seem to have forgotten that**

State Governments consist of elected representatives of the people and have the Constitutional mandate to maintain Law and Order including combating communal violence. To override or supersede the Constitutional authority of the Elected State Governments and giving superior powers to Commissions consisting of nominated members who are mere appointees of Governments will be a travesty of justice and the principles of democracy. Therefore, Chapters V and VI of the Bill dealing with the functions of NHRC and SHRC relating to maintenance of communal harmony are to be rejected lock, stock and barrel. Maintenance of communal harmony is surely the function and responsibility of the State and there is no reason or justification or legal sanction for an external agency to oversee the functioning of the State.

The maintenance of law and order in the Country is the fundamental responsibility of the State Governments; it is also an exercise that requires functional co-operation and understanding between the Central Government and the State Governments and presupposes a relationship based on equality – the States are equal partners with the Centre in protecting the Nation from internal strife. However, the Government of India has been increasingly taking an ill-advised and counter-productive, unilateral approach of attempting to create top down structures and parallel authorities that encroach upon the constitutional domain of the State Governments. This is best illustrated by the ham-handed manner in which the National Counter Terrorism Centre was sought to be established. This has now been further underscored by the shoddy manner in which the Prevention of Communal Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2013, has been drafted.

I am aware that in the aftermath of the recent unfortunate incidents of communal violence in some parts of India, (not in Tamil Nadu) there have been renewed calls from some quarters to enact the Prevention of Communal Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill. However, the Bill as drafted suffers from too many **lacunae** and will not meet the intended objective of preventing communal violence.

It would, therefore, be extremely unwise to pose the Bill as a **one size fits all** solution to a complex problem that requires sensitive co-operation between the Centre and States. In fact, the remedy proposed would end up being worse than the disease itself.

Hence, I would like to strongly reiterate on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu that I am completely opposed to this Bill which seeks to trample upon the authority of the States. With barely 5 months to go for the term of the present Lok Sabha to end and for General Elections to be announced, **any hasty attempt to bring** in such legislation without wide consultation **amongst all political parties and stakeholders would be a** completely undemocratic move. I strongly urge you not to move the proposed "Prevention of Communal (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2013" in the ensuing winter session of Parliament." ■

Chief Minister Lambasts DMK Chief for Hypocrisy on Model Schools

Statement of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on
10.11.2013
(English Translation)

While in Government, Thiru. Karunanidhi supported and implemented the Central Government's "Rashtriya Adarsh Vidyalaya" scheme in Tamil Nadu. In the proverbial fashion of "hunting with the hound and running with the hare", he has now issued a lengthy statement titled, "Will the State Government come forward to oppose the Centre on State autonomy''. This is consummate hypocrisy.

Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement is puzzling. One is unable to understand whether he is speaking after apprising himself fully about the scheme or is just issuing a damp squib statement as he has no other topic to write about. Perhaps he has issued the statement against the Central Congress Government in a state of utter confusion born out of the anxiety of whom to align with since the Central Government has not supported or respected the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu on the Sri Lanka Tamils issue and has not taken a just and firm decision on it.

Whatever be it, Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement fits well the Tamil proverb 'the frog invites its undoing by its own loud mouth'.

I consider it my duty to explain in detail the truth about this scheme. The Central Government started implementing the model school scheme, announced by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day address in 2007, from November 2008. It was set out that 6000 model schools should be started across India -- 3500 through State Governments in educationally backward taluks and the remaining 2500 through Public Private participation in educationally backward taluks or in other taluks.

Through its letter dated 19.11.2008, the Human Resources Development Ministry requested the State Governments to forward their reports on implementing the scheme.

When a note was circulated on this, the then Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi personally wrote on the file “can be discussed in the Cabinet”.

As per the advice of the then Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi, the proposal was included in the agenda of the Cabinet meeting held on 22.7.2009. In the note prepared by the School Education Department for the Cabinet meeting, it was clearly stated in the 2nd paragraph: “ Of the 6000 model schools 2500 would be started in the educationally backward taluks; another 2500 would be started under the Public Private Partnership mode. For the remaining 1000 schools, the procedures have not yet been finalised ”.

The Cabinet meeting decided: “The Cabinet gives its approval to the School Education Department’s proposal to start 20 model schools in the educationally backward taluks of Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 75.40 crore with Central Government’s assistance”.

That is, the Cabinet meeting presided over by Thiru. Karunanidhi gave its approval to this scheme without voicing any opposition. In other words, Thiru. Karunanidhi’s Government approved the model schools jointly run by the Central and State Governments in the educationally backward taluks and for such schools started with Public Private participation in other taluks . In short, the earlier Minority DMK Government gave its full consent for this Central Government scheme. Thiru. Karunanidhi, who had then consented to the scheme without a murmur, Thiru. Karunanidhi, who did not write even a single letter to the Central Government opposing the scheme, is now opposing the scheme! The wise people of Tamil Nadu will easily understand that this is for seeking political gains.

It is to be noted that there is a common entrance test for admission to these schools and that the medium instruction is only English. Thiru. Karunanidhi now lambasts the English medium in these schools; only he should explain why he consented to this scheme earlier?

After acting against State autonomy in this fashion while in power in the State, Thiru. Karunanidhi now talks about State autonomy. This is like “Devil Quoting the Scripture”.

In his lengthy statement, Thiru. Karunanidhi has cited the statement of Dr. Ramadoss, the founder of the Pattali Makkal Katchi. In that it is stated: “When the Central Government announced (the starting of) such model schools in the educationally

backward (Panchayat) unions, the Tamil Nadu Government, without allowing private players, started the schools by itself and has been running them. In the same way, the Tamil Nadu Government itself should run the 356 model schools announced now".

There is not an iota of truth in this. Because, as far as the educationally backward unions are concerned, the Central Government scheme is that such model schools should be started with Central and State Government participation. Hence, the Tamil Nadu Government started those schools. But, now, the Central Government's plan is that the model schools in areas other than the educationally backward unions, should be started under Public-Private mode. Perhaps that is why, Thiru. Karunanidhi has cited Dr. Ramadoss' statement, instead of putting forward that viewpoint as his own, out of a sense of shame''.

Under the Central Government scheme for starting 6000 model schools, is there a component of starting 2500 such schools under Public-Private mode or not?

Did the earlier minority DMK Government give its approval to the scheme or not?

Is Thiru. Karunanidhi aware that English is the sole medium of instruction in these schools or not?

Does Thiru. Karunanidhi know that admission to these schools in 2010-2011 was through an entrance test, or not? These are questions that the people of Tamil Nadu expect Thiru. Karunanidhi to answer.

The Central Government supported the Indian Medical Council's proposal for admitting students to Post Graduate courses in Medicine through an Entrance Examination. The DMK was part of that Government then. It was I who reminded that the Central Government's support to actions that deprive the states even of their existing powers, is an act against State autonomy at a time when the demand for transferring the subject 'Education' to the State List from the Concurrent List was gaining strength. Perhaps Thiru. Karunanidhi has forgotten this.

The All India Anna DMK's policy is that allottment to State's schemes should be through devolution of funds from the Centre and that the Central Government's schemes should not be tagged on to it. I wish to point out to Thiru. Karunanidhi that I have put forward this viewpoint in meetings with the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission and at the National Development Council meeting.

Thiru.Karunanidhi, who had supported the Congress Government's several measures that either usurped State's powers or whittled them down, like foreign investment in retail trade, Food Security Act and Value Added Tax Act, and who had trampled upon State autonomy is now talking about State autonomy. It is ridiculous and laughable.

Like this, Thiru. Karunanidhi had sacrificed Tamil Nadu's rights on several matters like Cauvery, Mullaiperiyar, Katchathivu and Palar for his own selfish ends. It is ridiculous that he should advice my Government which consistently raises its voice for State autonomy and for the rights of Tamils.

Under the model schools scheme of the Central Government, 41 model schools are to

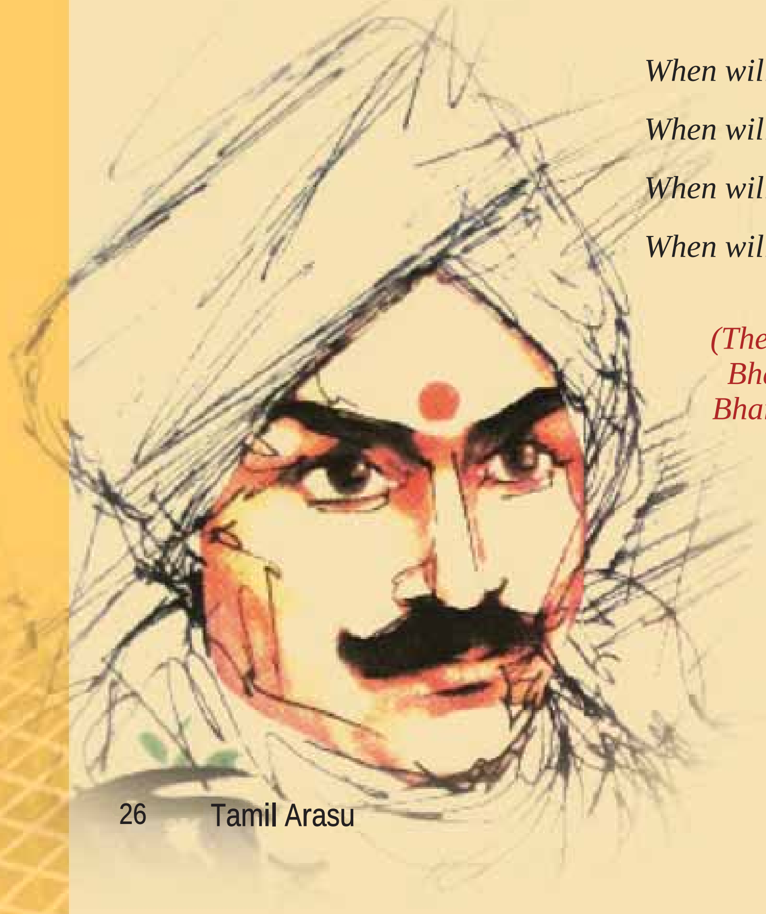
be started in the country in the pilot phase in the Public Private mode. Not a single school is to be started in Tamil Nadu in the phase. The Central Government has floated tenders for starting model schools in 500 unions. The last date for applying is 15.11.2013. Still, it is learnt that none has so far participated from Tamil Nadu in this tender.

I wish to state that my Government will take firm and beneficial measures in this issue also as it has done in getting the final order of the Cauvery tribunal gazetted, in establishing Tamil Nadu's rights in the Mullaiperiyar Dam issue, in raising the Katchathivu issue in court, in preventing the sale of N.L.C. shares to private parties and in preventing military training to Sinhalese in Tamil Nadu.

The Central Government will keep mum on this issue also as it has done in several other issue like that of Sri Lanka Tamils, Indian fishermen, allotment of kerosene and delay in the sanction of new power projects.

These model schools cannot be started before the next academic year. There will be a change of guard at the Centre after the Parliamentary election in May next, a change that will uplift the people of Tamil Nadu. Through that change, I wish to state, a solution will be found for this issue.

Thirst for Freedom (Suthanthira Thaagam)



When will our thirst for freedom be quenched?

When will our infatuation for slavery die?

When will our mother's handcuffs disappear?

When will our problems end, proving to be illusion?

(These lines are from a poem by Subramania Bharati, Tamil poet of Indian nationalism. Bharati's birth anniversary falls on Dec. 11)

DISMAL SHOW OF CENTRAL POWER STATIONS 'STRANGE'

D.O. letter dated 25.11.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** Hon'bleChief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I am writing this letter seeking your urgent intervention in the context of the sudden and unexpected deterioration in the power supply situation in the State of Tamil Nadu since the second week of November, 2013.

As you are well aware, when I assumed charge as Chief Minister in May, 2011, the power situation in Tamil Nadu was in dismal shape. The State was experiencing a severe power crisis with a demand supply gap of about 4000 MW primarily due to the lack of foresight and inaction on the part of the previous DMK Government. To manage the power situation at that time, severe power cuts were being resorted to. I initiated a series of measures to alleviate the power shortage, by expediting the commissioning of new thermal power projects, improving the performance of State owned thermal power stations and by undertaking medium and long term power purchase. I had written to you requesting that the interstate transmission capacity should be augmented, thereby enabling Tamil Nadu to buy power from other surplus regions in the country. I had also requested you for additional allocation of power to Tamil Nadu. My requests have not met with a positive response so far. Despite this, the herculean efforts systematically and vigorously pursued by my Government started yielding good dividends by July, 2013. This is a

tremendous achievement for the State as it managed to overcome a severe power crisis with no support from the Centre. The State has been free from load shedding from July till mid-November this year. I made a Statement in the Legislative Assembly on 25.10.2013, taking pride in the fact that the demand - supply gap of 4000 MW had been bridged. I also detailed the measures taken by my Government to make Tamil Nadu self sufficient in power supply and eventually become a power surplus State from the year 2014. Various sections of Society including domestic consumers, farmers and industrial consumers were very happy with the improved power supply situation and were fulsome in appreciating my Government for the turnaround I had been able to bring about in the overall power supply scenario.

However, soon after my Statement in the Legislative Assembly, the power situation in the State deteriorated rapidly. A close analysis reveals that this is primarily due to the shortfall in generation by Central Generating Stations, including our joint venture with NTPC, and by the new thermal power projects under trial production and which are yet to be handed over by M/s. BHEL to Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO).

The sudden and unanticipated drop of about 2500 MW can be directly attributed to Central Government Agencies including Central Generating Stations and Central Public Sector Undertakings like M/s. NTPC, M/s. BHEL, M/s. Indian Oil Corporation and M/s. Coal India Ltd.

An unexplained fire accident took place on 16.11.2013, in the North Chennai Thermal Power Station, new Unit 2 of 600 MW capacity which had recently commenced trial power generation. **This unit is still under the control of M/s.BHEL. Due to this unexplained fire accident, the twin 600 MW new Unit 1, which is also still under the control of M/s. BHEL and under trial production had to be isolated, resulting in a further loss of generation of about 600 MW.**

A joint venture of NTPC and TANGEDCO which is under NTPC management has commissioned two units of 500 MW capacity each at Vallur near Chennai in November, 2012, and August, 2013, respectively. These units were producing about 800 MW till recently. **Unit 1 with a capacity of 500 MW is not in service from 14.11.2013 on account of inadequate supply of coal from Talcher coal mines of Mahanadhi Coalfields Limited, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited**. Further, the shortfall in the

supply of coal affects not only the Vallur joint venture unit but also the thermal power stations of TANGEDCO which are entirely dependent on Coal India Limited for their supply of indigenous coal.**As a result, even though a thermal generation capacity of 500 MW is available, the joint venture unit is idle for want of coal.**TANGEDCO's units have been able to tide over the problem for the present due to their stockpiling of coal.

To compound this misery, Tamil Nadu is receiving only 777 MW out of its share of 1113 MW from Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC). There is thus a shortfall of 336 MW due to repairs to and annual maintenance in some of the NLC units. Similarly, one unit of Madras Atomic Power Plant and one unit of Kaiga Atomic Power Plant are also not in service resulting in a further shortfall of 241 MW. In addition, the Independent Power Project based on naphtha as fuel, M/s. PPN Limited, dedicated to TANGEDCO, is out of service due to inadequate supply of naphtha by M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited. This is a frequent occurrence.

Thus, the total loss of generation at Central Generating Stations, the joint venture unit of NTPC, projects under execution by M/s. BHEL and the Independent Power Project dependent on naphtha from M/s.IOC Ltd., works out to approximately 2500 MW.

It appears to be a very strange coincidence that while all the existing 12 thermal units

of TANGEDCO are generating to full capacity, the Central Generating Stations and the joint venture unit are all performing dismally, simultaneously. This has resulted in widespread load shedding again in the State which was free from load shedding till the first fortnight of November, 2013. **The people of Tamil Nadu find it difficult to believe that the Central Generating Stations including the joint venture unit under the management of NTPC as well as the units under trial production executed by M/s. BHEL could all perform so poorly at the same time.** I, therefore, request you to kindly direct the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Coal to take immediate effective steps to ensure that these power plants under the control of Central Agencies maximise their generation and restore the supply of power to Tamil Nadu. Continued poor performance by the Central PSUs causing shortfall in power supply would only lead the people of Tamil Nadu to come to the conclusion that there is a concerted conspiracy to keep the State in the dark."

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SPORTS IN CHENNAI GETS BOOST

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa commissioned at the Secretariat on 11.11.2013, sports facilities costing Rs. 17.80 crore in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

They are: Eight synthetic athletic tracks (Rs. 3 crore), a world class natural grass foot-ball field (Rs. 47.50 lakh), 2 lifts (Rs. 37.65 lakh), a new world class indoor synthetic athletic track (Rs. 1.90 crore), renovated tar roads (Rs. 50 lakh), 2000 watt electric lights (Rs. 3.07 crore), new audio devices (Rs. 40 lakh), a sports hostel for boy students (Rs. 70 lakh), a new hall for media representatives (Rs. 40 lakh), improved infrastructure facilities (Rs. 6.98 crore), and renovated rooms.

For training purposes for personnel, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also commissioned near the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, a newly laid world class synthetic 8-lane athletic track, separate halls for short put, disc throw, long jump, high jump, hop-step-and jump, pole vault, and javeline throw, a lawn football ground, high-mast lights, sports hostel for women and a first grade sports centre, all costing Rs. 9.51 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the hostel with a dining hall, kitchen and other facilities at the Stadium. The estimated cost of the hostel, which can accommodate 250 sportspersons is Rs. 3 crore.

AMMA UNAVAGAM OPENED AT GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 20.11.2013 a budget restaurant "Amma Unavagam" in the General Hospital complex in Chennai.

Such restaurants are functioning in all the 200 wards of the Chennai Corporation area and have received the acclaim of one and all. They serve at cheap rates, hygienic and quality foodstuff-Idly, Pongal with Sambar between 7 and 10 am and Sambar rice, Curd rice, Curry leaf rice and Lemon rice between 12 noon and 3 pm.

Following requests from the general public that such a restaurant should be opened at the General Hospital complex where the poor marginalised and middle class people come in large numbers to visit the patients, the Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered the setting up of an "Amma Unavagam" in the General Hospital complex. The canteen will come up on an area of 5,100 sq. feet, with a capacity to cater to 300 persons at a time and with facilities of ramp and low-level tables to cater to the needs of the differently abled and senior citizens.

Mosquito nets for the poor

The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed mosquito nets to 4 persons to mark the free distribution of such nets to the poor and downtrodden residing on the banks of water bodies like Adyar, Cooum, Buckingham Canal and on the nearby pavements in Chennai.

The plan is to distribute free-of -cost five lakh mosquito nets and protect the targeted group from the mosquitos spreading malaria, dengue and chickengunya diseases. In the first phase 78,184 mosquito nets have been procured at a cost of Rs.1,32,13,096/-.

The Chennai Corporation Council meeting passed a special resolution on 29.8.2013 for observing the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa's birthday as Environmental

Awareness Day every year. On that day, the Chennai Corporation proposes to launch several measures for protecting the environment and curbing global warming.

The scheme includes distribution of 6.5 lakh of papaya saplings to school children and 5.5 lakh of "Nochi" saplings to the general public. (The fruit of the former has plenty of Vitamin 'A' and can be grown in houses while the latter with its medicinal properties can control mosquito in the city). The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the saplings to 4 persons at the Secretariat to mark the inauguration of the scheme.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated 2 training centres, one at the Chennai Boys Higher Secondary School at Saidapet and the other at the Chennai Higher Secondary School at Perambur Bunder Garden to give free training to 710 graduates from poor and downtrodden families in the first phase, for the examinations conducted by the Tamil Nadu and Union Public Service Commissions. The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented enrolment letters to 4 persons.

Poompuhar Awards

Recognise Skill of Handicraft Artisans

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented awards to 7 handicraft artisans at the Secretariat on 6.11.2013 as a token of distributing the Poompuhar State Awards to 37 artisans and Poompuhar District Handicraft Awards to 122 artisans.

The Poompuhar Award was given Government recognition in 2002 and made into a State Award of the Tamil Nadu Government. Every year, 10 handicraft artisans are selected and given the award. For the 4 years from 2009-2010, 37 artisans have been selected. By way of honouring these artisans, the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented to 6 artisans a cheque for Rs. 50,000/- each, a gold medal weighing 4 grams, a copper plate and a certificate.

For encouraging the handicraft artisans further, as only 10 artisans are selected for the State award, the institution of "Poompuhar District Handicraft Awards" was announced in the Legislative Assembly on 14.9.2011. Every year 85 handicraft artisans in 16 types of handicraft industries are to be selected for the District Award. 60 artisans have been selected for the award for 2011-2012 and 62 for the year 2012-2013. The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented a cheque for Rs. 5,000/- and a certificate to an artisan as a token of honouring the 122 handicraft artisans selected for the award. The maximum number of awards for the handicraft industry are given only in Tamil Nadu.

Police Commissionerate for Tiruppur inaugurated

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 19.11.2013, the newly created Tiruppur City Police Commissionerate and presented cheques towards cash awards to 238 Police Personnel who had effectively contributed in the arrest of the absconding culprits, Bilal Malik and Panna Ismail.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced that a Police Commissionerate would be set up exclusively for Tiruppur city and allotted Rs. 17.29 crore towards creation of 536 posts for this and Rs. 19.18 lakh for office equipment.

The new Commissionerate will cover the jurisdiction of the Police Stations of Anupperpalayam, Velampalayam, Veerapandi, Uthukuli, Anupperpalayam Traffic, Tiruppur (South) All Women Police Station and Central Police Station. Seven Police Stations, 3 Traffic Police Stations, 2 All Women Police Stations and a Central Crime Branch will function under the Commissionerate.

Pat for Policemen

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had ordered the setting up of a special investigation team headed by Thiru. Narendrapal Singh IPS, Director General of Police, CBCID for investigating the murders of Hindu Munnani functionary Vellaiappan and the Bharatiya Janata Party State Secretary Auditor Ramesh

and for apprehending the culprits expeditiously. The absconding culprits connected with these cases, “Police” Fakruddin was arrested on 4.10.2013 and Bilal Malik and Panna Ismail were apprehended at Puttur in Andhra Pradesh on 5.10.2013 on account of the intense efforts of the special team.

For the sense of duty and gallantry exhibited in the arrest of the culprits, the Hon’ble Chief Minister presented cash awards in the form of cheques to 22 Police Personnel of the special team and gave accelerated promotion to 20 Police Personnel and applauded them. Joint efforts and coordinated action are essential in such operations. Taking this into account, the Hon’ble Chief Minister announced on 14.10.2013 that other Police Personnel who had provided intelligence and acted exceedingly well with a sense of duty in other areas connected with this case, would also be given cash awards.

Accordingly, the Hon’ble Chief Minister presented cheques to 238 Police Personnel for a total amount of Rs. 2.53 crore for their contribution in the arrest of the absconding culprits.

The awardees also took a group photo with the Hon’ble Chief Minister. The Hon’ble Chief Minister said: “I appreciate all of you. My good wishes for a better performance”.

Thiru. Anoop Jaiswal, IPS, Chairman and Managing Director for the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation presented to the Hon’ble Chief Minister a cheque for Rs. 1.50 crore as the dividend declared by the Corporation for the years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. ■

NEW BUILDINGS FOR OFFICES OF SUB-REGISTRARS

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 6.11.2013, 21 new buildings for the Registration Department constructed at a cost of Rs. 10.32 crore.

Of these buildings, 20 are for Sub-Registrar Offices and one is a hostel for the Department's Training Institute at Chennai (Rs. 49 lakh). The Office Buildings have come up at Pallipalayam and Puduchathiram in Namakkal District, Jolarpet, Wallajah, Arcot and Kalavai (Vellore District), Thoosi and Keezhkodungalur (Tiruvannamalai), Kundrathur and Peria Kancheepuram (Joint registrar- II Office) in Kancheepuram District, Pudur and Kadambur (Thoothukudi), Kavundhappadi (Erode), Pollachi (Coimbatore), Oothankarai (Krishnagiri), Gujiliamparai (Dindigul), Kadaladi (Ramanathapuram), Kammapuram (Cuddalore), Elupur (Pudukottai) and Palladam (Tiruppur).

Besides rooms for officers, the new buildings have facilities such as computer room, safe-keeping room for registration records, waiting room with added facilities for the general public, ramps for senior citizens and the differently-abled, broad platforms, protected drinking water and modern toilets.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the facility for fixing prior appointment with the Sub-Registrar through Internet for registering documents without loss of time.

As per this scheme, the Registrant public should upload all the details about the transaction sought to be registered --person who assigns, the assignee, details of the property etc -- in the software developed by the National Information Centre. Persons who have uploaded details in the Internet, can go to the Sub-Registrar's office at the appointed time and take up the registration work. After verifying the details uploaded in the Internet , the Sub-Registrar will take up the registration of the document. At the same time, sufficient time will be given for those who come to the office for registration without such prior appointment.

It was announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 3.5.2012 that Internet Protocol Cameras would be installed in all the 575 Sub-Registrar offices in the State and Remote Monitoring would be undertaken from the 9 Zonal offices and from the office of the Registrar General of the transactions taking place in the Sub-Registrar's offices.

The installation of the IP cameras is for providing speedy and transparent services, curtailing the movement of touts and to prevent fraudulent registration and impersonation.

Towards implementation of the scheme, the Government has alloted Rs.3,46,92,705/- for purchase of the hardware and software and installation of the needed equipment and Rs.9,30,90,280/- as recurring expenditure for procurement of discs and towards salary for those employed for the implementation of this scheme. To make this scheme self-sustainable and revenue earning one, sanction has been accorded to collect Rs.50/- from the concerned registrants for making available to them video discs about their document and marriage registration. The videographing of the document and marriage registrations, besides turning out to be good evidence both to the department and the registrants will be helpful in any future inquiry about allegations of impersonation or fraudulent registration.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the IP camera installation scheme also on 6.11.2013

Scheme to train 100 women in Thanjavur Paintings

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated at the Secretariat on 6.11.2013, a scheme to train 100 women in Thanjavur Painting at Srirangam in Tiruchirappalli District by distributing raw materials and a tool box worth Rs. 5,000 to 7 women.

Thanjavur Paintings play an important role in revealing the greatness of Tamil Nadu's traditional handicrafts. By way of spreading the art and helping women in households learn this art form and became self employed, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 8.5.2013 that 100 women would be given training by expert artists at Srirangam for a year in the production of Thanjavur Paintings.

The trainees would be given a monthly stipend of Rs. 2000/- each besides the needed raw materials for painting. At the end of the training period a certificate would be issued to the trainees. In the current year, the scheme would be implemented at a cost of Rs.83 lakh through the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation.

Artisans who are National and State awardees in Thanjavur Painting have been appointed trainers under this scheme. ■

BUILDINGS OPENED FOR VETERINARY DISPENSARIES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 6.11.2013, buildings totally costing Rs. 43.71 crore for 164 veterinary dispensaries, 2 Investigation Divisions for veterinary diseases and for one Frozen Semen Bank.

The dispensaries are located in the following Districts: Ariyalur (2), Coimbatore (2), Cuddalore (21), Dharmapuri (9), Dindigul (3), Erode (10), Kancheepuram (2), Kanniyakumari (6), Karur (1), Krishnagiri (9), Madurai (6), Nagapattinam (3), Namakkal (1), Pudukottai (8), Ramanathapuram (2), Sivagangai (5), Thanjavur (10), Theni (6), Tiruvallur (7), Tiruvannamalai (11), Tiruvarur (2), Thoothukudi (8), Tiruppur (4), Tiruchirapalli (12), Virudhunagar (8) and Vellore (6) (total cost Rs. 42.37 crore).

Veterinary disease investigation division buildings have come up at Krishnagiri and Virudhunagar Districts (Rs. 91 lakh) and the Frozen Semen Bank building at Tiruvannamalai District (Rs. 43.50 lakh).

The dispensaries are constructed with the facilities for an operation theatre, room for examining the animals and a treatment hall. About 20 lakh heads of cattle will benefit from these dispensaries.

Road overbridges opened in many districts

Fourteen overbridges and bridges constructed at a total cost of Rs. 202.54 crore, a by-pass road in Dharapuram town in Tiruppur District laid at a cost of Rs. 14 crore and 11 buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.87 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 11.11.2013.

Of the bridges, the one over railway crossing no.151 in the National Highway 209 in Echanari in Coimbatore District (Rs. 13 crore) has been completed six months ahead of the scheduled time. The 516.08 metre long over bridge makes transportation to Coimbatore from Palani, Udumalpet, Pollachi, Valparai and Kinathukadavu easy and considerably cuts short the travel time.

The other road infrastructure declared open are: a high level bridge across Cooum river in Nerkundram, Chennai District (Rs. 16.04 crore), an overbridge across railway crossing No.37 at Oorapakkam in Kancheepuram District (Rs. 29.68 crore), an underbridge beneath railway crossing no.98 in Daasampatti, Krishnagiri District (Rs. 10.63 crore), a bridge in Pasuvapuram, Dharmapuri District (Rs. 57 lakh), an overbridge across railway crossing no.156 in Ulundurpet, Villupuram District (Rs. 11.70 crore), an overbridge across railway crossing No.144 in Irugur , Coimbatore District, an overbridge across railway crossing No.279 in Manapparai, Tiruchirappalli district (Rs. 28 crore), a high-level bridge across Arasalaru river in Poonthottam Thiruvarur District, (Rs. 4.27 crore), an overbridge across railway crossing no.5 in Dindigul in Dindigul District, an overbridge across railway crossing no.370 at Thiruparankundram in Madurai District

(Rs. 22 crore), a minor bridge at Thulukkankurichi in Virudhunagar District (Rs. 1.40 crore), an overbridge across railway crossing no.502 at Tenkasi in Tirunelveli District (Rs. 24.50 crore), and a high level bridge at Tiruvettar in Kanniyakumari District (Rs. 2 crore).

The Dharapuram by-pass road runs to a length of 3.60 km from Alangiam Road Junction to Ottanchatram. The new buildings declared open are: Traveller's bungalows at Pallipalayam in Namakkal District (Rs. 45 lakh), at Andhiyur in Erode District (Rs. 30 lakh), and at Karaikudi in Sivagangai district (Rs 30 lakh); Divisional Quality Control Office building at Coimbatore in Coimbatore District (Rs. 30 lakh), Sub-Divisional and Section Office buildings at Sathyamangalam (Rs. 18 lakh)), at Dindigul in Dindigul District (Rs. 20 lakh), at Vedaranyam in Nagapattinam District (Rs. 20 lakh), at Avudayarkoil, Pudukottai District (Rs. 20 lakh), at Usilampatti in Madurai District (Rs. 22 lakh), at Kamudhi in Ramanathapuram District (Rs. 22 lakh), and at Palayamkottai and in Tirunelveli District (Rs. 30 lakh).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation for a two-lane flyover running to a length of 520.47 metres near Ganapathy on National Highway no.209 in Coimbatore (North), Coimbatore District.

125th Birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

In connection with the 125th birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Dr. K. Rosaiah,** Hon'ble Ministers, Worshipful Mayor of Chennai, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information and other officials offered floral tributes, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government to a decorated portrait of Nehru placed near his statue, on 14.11.2013.

Nine more ITIs, four specially for tribals

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated at the Secretariat through video conferencing on 11.11.2013, 9 industrial training institutes, including 4 for tribal students.

The institutes are located at Tiruvaiyaru in Thanjavur District, Bodi (Theni District), Aruppukottai (Virudhunagar), Radhapuram (Tirunelveli) and Veppalodai (Thoothukudi); the ones for tribal students are located at Jamunamarathur (Tiruvannamalai), Anaikatti (Coimbatore), Kollimalai (Namakkal) and Gudalur (The Nilgiris).

Towards construction of new buildings and procurement of machinery and equipment Rs. 24.50 crore has been allotted for the institutes for tribal students and Rs. 26.39 crore for other institutes.The institutes will provide industrial training in 5 disciplines each and will have training facilities for 200 students in each institute.

The institutes will also provide practical training in the courses for Marine Engine Fitter, A.C. Mechanic, Welder, Wireman, Fashion Technology, Car Mechanic, Fitter, Electrician, Light Motor Vehicle Repairing and Maintenance, Lift Mechanic, Turner, Plumber, Diesel Mechanic and Tailoring.

At present, there are 62 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across Tamil Nadu, catering largely to students from the poor, marginalised and socially backward sections of society. The demand for industrially skilled persons is increasing for achieving the targets set in the "Vision 2023" proclaimed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Towards fulfilling the wishes of students who want to join ITIs, meeting the demand for skilled industrial labour in the State and helping students who are unable to pursue higher studies due to various reasons but want to get industrial training, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the starting of 10 ITIs in the current year. ■

Prime Minister exhorted to act to free Tamil fishermen

D.O. Letter dated 6.11.2013
addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,**
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
to **Dr. Manmohan Singh,**
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

I write with a deep sense of anguish and pain about the fate of fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu, who suffer attacks and abduction at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay. In spite of my repeated representations to you on this critical livelihood issue of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu, the harassment and arrest of these fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy continues unquestioned and unabated. The Sri Lankan Navy appears emboldened to act in a highhanded and repressive manner largely because of the Government of India's meek and passive approach to this serious issue.

In yet another shocking incident, 3 mechanised fishing boats bearing registration number IND-TN-10-MM-333, IND-TN-10-MM-158, IND-TN-10-MM-104, with 13 fishermen belonging to Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu which set out for fishing from Rameswaram fishing base on 4.11.2013 were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 5.11.2013. In a separate incident, 4 fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND-TN-08-MM-028, IND-TN-08-MM-404, IND-TN-08-MM-082, IND-TN-06-MM-318 of Jagathapattinam, Pudukottai District with 17 fishermen were also apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 5.11.2013. In all, 30 fishermen and 7 boats from Tamil Nadu have been unlawfully abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy on 5.11.2013.

You may recall that 56 fishermen who were apprehended and remanded on earlier occasions are still languishing in Sri Lankan Jails. 35 fishing boats belonging to these poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu are still in the custody of the Sri Lankan authorities. Such harsh, punitive and repressive action, which amounts to depriving poor fishermen families of their livelihood, deserves to be condemned in the strongest terms. The Government of India cannot continue to remain a passive spectator in the face of the highhanded belligerence of the Sri Lankan Navy.

May I once again urge your personal intervention in the matter and exhort you to take up the matter through the highest diplomatic channels and secure the immediate release of the 86 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and 42 fishing boats in Sri Lankan custody, at the earliest? I seek your personal intervention in the matter. ■

RELEASE SOUGHT OF FISHERMEN FROM SRI LANKAN JAILS

"I am extremely distressed to be writing to you yet again bringing to your notice yet another instance of illegal apprehension of innocent Indian fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy on 21st November, 2013, which also happens to be 'World Fisheries Day'. The Government of India's insensitive handling of the entire issue has led to the repeated, increasingly frequent and brutal attacks on fishermen from Tamil Nadu peacefully pursuing their livelihood in their traditional fishing waters. The meek and pusillanimous response of the Government of India to these repeated instances of apprehension have emboldened the Sri Lankan Navy to illegally arrest and detain more and more of our fishermen.

I would like to bring to your notice the latest incident on 21st November, 2013, in which the Sri Lankan Navy brutally abducted 20 poor innocent fishermen along with their 5 fishing boats while they were fishing in their traditional waters of Palk Bay. 20 fishermen set out for fishing from Jagadhapattinam and Kottaipattinam fishing bases of Pudukottai District on 20.11.2013 in 5 mechanised fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND-TN-08-MM-106, IND-TN-08-MM-125, IND-TN-08-MM-245, IND-TN-08-MM-297 and IND-TN-04-MM-173. While they were engaged in fishing in their traditional fishing waters, they were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 21st November, 2013. When the global fishermen community was in a festive mood, celebrating World Fisheries Day, this dastardly act of the Sri Lankan Navy has again cast a pall of gloom over our innocent fishermen and their families.

Incidents of abduction and detention of fishermen from Tamil Nadu for long periods in Sri Lankan prisons have multiplied, even

as the Government of India takes little or no action to convey India's strong protest or to use coercive diplomacy to put an end to these marauding attacks. The very serious livelihood problem of hundreds of thousands of our fishermen is, in fact, being relegated to the backburner as something to be sorted out by the fishermen associations of both countries. The continued insensitive and ham-handed treatment of the Tamil Nadu fishermen issue in the Palk Bay, is fast alienating the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu, who justifiably feel that they have been let down by their own national Government.

I wish to remind you that before the latest incident of 21st November, 2013, 60 fishermen who had earlier been apprehended and remanded to custody, continue to languish in Sri Lankan Jails and are yet to be released by the Sri Lankan Government. 42 fishing boats of our fishermen are yet to be returned from Sri Lankan custody causing considerable economic loss to the poor fishermen. May I once again exhort you to personally intervene in the matter and use the highest diplomatic channels of the Government of India to secure the immediate release of 80 fishermen who are currently in Sri Lankan custody including the 20 fishermen who were apprehended on 21st November, 2013, and the 47 Indian fishing boats detained by the Sri Lankan authorities at the earliest?

93rd Birth anniversary of Kavignar Suratha

In connection with the 93rd birth anniversary of Kavignar Suratha on 23.11.2013, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Special Programme Implementation, the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai, Director of Information and Public Relations Department and other VIPs offered floral tributes on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government to a decorated portrait of the poet placed near his statue at Chennai.

CHIEF MINISTER RAPS CENTRE FOR PETROL, DIESEL PRICE HIKE

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 1.12.2013 (English Translation)

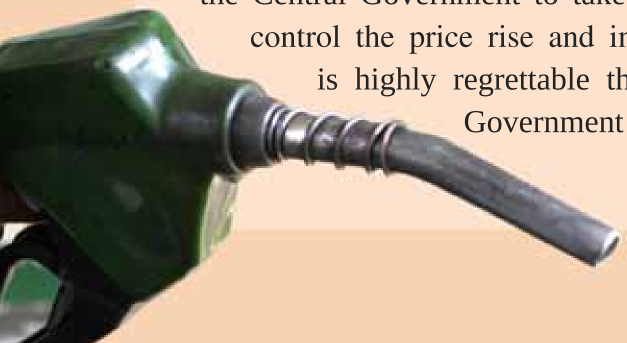
The oil companies have been increasing the petrol and diesel prices every month citing the hike in the price of crude oil in the global market and the fall of the Indian rupee value against the American dollar. Now they have started increasing the price without adducing any reason. The 50 paise hike effected in the price of diesel per litre from today (1.12.2013) is a torture inflicted on the poor and the marginalised sections of society. I strongly condemn this anti-people measure.

After the Central Government delegated the power to increase the price of diesel on a monthly basis to oil companies, the diesel price has been revised upward 11 times till now.

At a time when people are eagerly expecting the Central Government to take action to control the price rise and inflation, it is highly regrettable the Central Government is adopting a diametrically opposite stance. This price increase is totally unjustified. It will impose an additional burden on the poor, the marginalised and the middle class.

This price rise may trigger an all round price increase. Bus fares in the private sector and transport charges to school and work places will increase. As a result, the poor, the marginalised and the middle classes will be severely affected.

I strongly urge the Central Government to direct the oil companies to immediately annul this diesel price hike in the interest of the people and in the context of the stability prevailing to an extent in the global price of crude and in the Indian rupee value. The Central Government should also rescind the power delegated to oil companies to fix the price of petrol and diesel. ■



CHIEF MINISTER DENIES CHARGES OF POLL PANEL

D.O. letter dated 2.12.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
to the Chief Election Commissioner,
Election Commission of India, New Delhi

With reference to the communication from the Election Commission of India in the letter bearing No.100/TN-LA/1/2013, dated 2nd December, 2013, which was enclosed along with the letter of the Chief Electoral Officer & Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu vide his reference No.3806/2013-330, dated 2.12.2013, which was received by me at 3.30 pm on 2.12.2013, I am sending the following reply.

At the outset, your notice does not mention the name of the complainant but from the contents of the complaint extracted in the second para of the notice it is presumed that the complaint has been made by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam which is an adversary and political rival of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. It is vehemently denied that any announcement of new schemes was made while I was campaigning for the AIADMK Party candidate on 28.11.2013 in Yercaud Constituency.

My speeches to the electorate were in Tamil. I never made any promise or announcement of any new schemes in any of my speeches made on 28.11.2013. I referred to the various development schemes already implemented and under implementation in the State after I assumed charge as Chief Minister of the State for the third term. I also referred to various developmental schemes already implemented and under implementation in Yercaud Constituency. I emphatically deny that my speech was in the nature of alluding to different social and infrastructure requirements such as opening of new Health Centres etc. I mentioned in my speech that the requirements for the development of Yercaud Constituency have been brought to my notice. **I made a general statement that whatever is required for the upliftment of the people in the area would be provided.It would not be correct to link the unrelated general**

statement with the requirements which were brought to my notice.

I did not promise that any specific schemes would be implemented. I emphatically deny that I made any specific promise of providing any one of the requirements which were brought to my notice. I repeat that in my speech I only made a general statement that whatever is required for the progress of the people living in Yercaud Constituency would be provided by the Government. Hence there was no violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

I, further, state that since my speech was in Tamil the same has not been correctly reflected in the English translation. No specific promises have been made. I therefore, would reiterate that I have not violated sub para (vi) of para "II-Party in Power" and no action is warranted on that score.

Further, in any event, in my speech I have not announced any financial grant in any form, or promise thereof, and did not make promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc., so as to attract the above said Model Code of Conduct.

Your communication under reference proceeds on the basis of a conjunctive reference to the requirements of the area and assurance to meeting development requirements of the area by the Government. First of all there is no basis for coming to such a conclusion in the fourth para of the notice and that too by making a conjunctive reference, which is mere surmise and suspicion and which is inadmissible in law, more so in the case of interpreting the Model Code of Conduct.

In view of the above I would request you to drop the proposed action pursuant to your show cause notice under reply.

Further, it is also brought to your notice that my name has been misspelt in the communication sent to me. ■

Public Holidays for the year 2014

S.No	Holidays	Date	Day
1	New year's Day	01.01.2014	Wed
2	Pongal & Milad-un-Nabi	14.01.2014	Tue
3	Thiruvalluvar Day	15.01.2014	Wed
4	Uzhavar Thirunal	16.01.2014	Thu
5	Republic Day	26.01.2014	Sun
6	Telugu New Year's Day	31.03.2014	Mon
7	Annual closing of Accounts for Commercial Banks & Co-operative Banks	01.04.2014	Tue
8	Mahaveer Jayanthi	13.04.2014	Sun
9	Tamil New Year's Day and Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's Birthday	14.04.2014	Mon
10	Good Friday	18.04.2014	Fri

S.No	Holidays	Date	Day
11	May Day	01.05.2014	Thu
12	Ramzan	29.07.2014	Tue
13	Independence Day	15.08.2014	Fri
14	Krishna Jayanthi	17.08.2014	Sun
15	Vinayakar Chathurthi	29.08.2014	Fri
16	Gandhi Jayanthi and Ayutha Pooja	02.10.2014	Thu
17	Vijaya Dasami	03.10.2014	Fri
18	Bakrid	05.10.2014	Sun
19	Deepavali	22.10.2014	Wed
20	Muharram	04.11.2014	Tue
21	Christmas	25.12.2014	Thu

Centre flayed for fuelling price rise

TAMIL NADU'S PROACTIVE STEPS AGAINST MOUNTING INFLATION

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 1.11.2013 (English Translation)

When the prices of all commodities are skyrocketing, the 50 paise increase per litre effected in the price of diesel by the Central Government without even considering the recovery of rupee value and the deceleration of the price of petroleum products in the international market is like rubbing salt into a raw wound. I strongly condemn this diesel price rise which will further inflate prices.

The wrong economic policies of the Central Congress coalition Government and its wrong price fixing policy for petroleum products are responsible for the price rise.

The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy plays an important role in containing inflation. The RBI raises and lowers the interest rates as per the prevailing conditions. For example, when the RBI raises the interest rate to control inflation, the money circulation comes down. But at the same time the wrong fiscal policy of the Central Government pushes up prices and paves the way for further inflation. Hence, the common man has to face the double assault of inflation and higher interest rates. One other important reason for this, is fixing the price of petroleum products at international rates, and linking it in terms of the American Dollar. This pushes up the cost of all transportation like railway freight rates and this in turn pushes up the price of all essential commodities including vegetables and fruits.

Moreover, the depreciation of rupee value and its instability are due to several factors. Among them are encouraging speculative trade in the foreign exchange market, importing non-essential articles blindly, permitting private companies to get loans from abroad in terms of American Dollar, not taking steps to increase the indigenous production of crude oil and encouraging foreign institutional investors who invest in stock and debt markets for short duration and repatriate their funds.

Due to all these reasons inflation rises and prices increase. The wrong economic policy of the Central Government and the discordance between the Reserve Bank and the Central Government are the sole reasons for the present price rise. The poor and the marginalised are mostly affected on account of this.

The State Government's role in controlling prices is infinitesimally small. As far as we are concerned, we have taken the following steps along with prevention of smuggling and hoarding to control prices to benefit the poor and the marginalised.

✶ 20 kilos of rice at no cost is supplied every month through fair price shops without any interruption.

✶ Rs. 25 crore has been allotted to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation from the Price Stabilisation Fund for controlling the open market price of rice.

✶ 1,000 tonnes of fine variety rice was procured through the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and sold to consumers in the open market.

✶ Through 'Amudam' Shops, Co-operative outlets and super markets rice is sold in open market at Rs. 20/- a kilo. One lakh tonnes of rice has been allotted for this.

✶ Through the Special Public Distribution System, family card holders are supplied palm oil at Rs. 25/- per litre against the open market price of Rs. 57/-, toor dhal at Rs. 30/- a kilo(open market price of Rs. 76/-), and urad dhal at Rs. 30/- a kilo(Rs. 60/-). For this, the Government is providing a subsidy of Rs. 1,006 crore every year.

✶ A Price Stabilisation Fund was created and Rs. 100/- crore was allotted for effecting market intervention whenever the prices of essential commodities shoot up. These commodities will be procured at the place of their production and sold to consumers at fair prices through the Co-operative retail shops and the additional shops of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.

✶ To control the price of vegetables and to link the consumers and farmers directly, Farm Fresh Consumer shops have been opened in urban areas through the Co-operatives and the Horticulture Department. Vegetables are sold in these shops at prices lower than the open market prices. So far, 21 lakh kg of vegetables have been sold.

✶ Different varieties of dhal are procured at the places of their production and sold to consumers at fair prices through Co-operative retail shops.

✶ Rs. 3.30 crore has been allotted for procurement of 600 tonnes of tamarind and being sold sale to people at cost price in a bid to control the price of tamarind.

✶ In the interest of the poor and the marginalised, the Value Added Tax on cooking gas has been abolished totally.

✶ For the benefit of the poor and the marginalised, "Amma Restaurants" have been opened in Municipal Corporation areas

throughout the State. Through these restaurants, idly is sold at Re. 1/- a piece, sambar rice at Rs. 5/- and curd rice at Rs. 3/-.

✶ Besides these, a litre of good drinking water is sold by the Government Transport Corporations at Rs. 10/- while the Railways charge the same at Rs. 15/- and in the open market it is priced at Rs. 20 .

The Central Government stopped the subsidy totally to bulk consumers of diesel. As a result the price of diesel went up by Rs.11/- per litre in January last. I opposed this. The Central Petroleum Minister averred that the bulk consumers have the capacity to bear the market price. Even if it is not there, they can pass the burden on to the customers, he said. That is, he said the bus fare can be hiked. But my Government did not increase the passenger fare.

At the time when I assumed office as Chief Minister for a third time, the State Transport Corporations' condition was pitiable. The retirement benefits worth several crores of rupees were not disbursed. The bus fares were raised a little in November 2011 to prevent the Government Transport Corporations from getting paralised on account of irregularities committed in the earlier minority DMK Government's rule. Even then the loss could not be made good. Still, the bus fares were not raised subsequently.

When the bus fares were revised in November 2011, the diesel price was Rs. 43.95 p. Now it has risen to Rs. 56.61p. That is, in 2 years the price has gone up by about 29 per cent. The Government Transport Corporations in other states revise the bus fare upward in proportion to the price rise in diesel as and when it takes place. Only in Tamil Nadu, this burden is not passed on the people. The Government has borne the burden. For this, my Government made available Rs.200 crore last year. This year Rs.500 crore has been allotted.

Thus, my Government has been doing, subject to its capacity and power-on some occasions even beyond these limits-what all possible to bring down the price with a sense of duty and responsibility.

But whether the Central Government which has sky-high powers and revenue is acting with a sense of duty and responsibility-the answer is certainly 'no'. The present diesel price like is the best example for this.

I strongly urge the Central Government to roll back the present price hike in diesel and withdraw the powers given to oil companies for increasing the diesel price every month.

The people are ready to shoot the 'vote' arrow against the Government that is ruining the country without scrutinising the good and bad conseqences of its administrative actions and taking action to rectify things. Through this action, there will be a change of regime and people's condition will improve. ■

DESIST FROM TRAINING SRI LANKAN NAVY

D.O. letter dated 30.11.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"Over the last two years, I have written to you a number of times bringing to your notice the strong sentiments amongst Tamils and in Tamil Nadu on a range of issues relating to India's relations with the present regime in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the ethnic civil strife in Sri Lanka, which was marked by an ethnic pogrom and genocide on the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has already passed four Resolutions condemning the continuing discrimination against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and violation of their human rights.

The other serious issue, which clearly demonstrates the harsh and unreasonable attitude of the present Sri Lankan regime, is the continuing marauding and totally unprovoked attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy upon innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen on the high seas, followed by their extended periods of detention in Sri Lankan jails, confiscation of their boats, fishing nets, etc. thereby causing loss of their livelihood and condemning the fishermen and their families to suffer considerable mental agony.

Therefore, there is a deep and widespread sentiment prevailing amongst all sections of Society and shades of political opinion in Tamil Nadu about the need to hold the Sri Lankan regime to account for the acts of genocide and war crimes in the closing stages of the civil war and continued discrimination against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. Further, the entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is agitated over the indiscriminate abduction of our fishermen on the high seas. It is against this background that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly had passed a historic Resolution on 27.3.2013 urging the Government of India to stop terming Sri Lanka as a "friendly nation".

Please refer to my letters dated 16.7.2012, 25.8.2012, 28.8.2012 and 8.6.2013, wherein I had written to you to convey the deep sense of outrage of the people of Tamil Nadu regarding the imparting of training to Sri Lankan defence personnel at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, located in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. While communicating Tamil Nadu's strong protest, I had urged that the Government of India should issue a clear policy direction that the Ministry of Defence should not hereafter provide training, or engage in any form of co-operation with the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, until satisfactory and credible action was taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to completely stop the human rights violations against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and end the unprovoked and marauding attacks on fishermen from Tamil Nadu. I had also written to you on 11.9.2013 that the Government of India should cancel the agreement to supply naval warships to Sri Lanka and ensure that no support of any kind is provided to the Sri Lankan military forces.

I am, therefore, dismayed to note from media reports that the Indian Navy has now offered to train Sri Lankan Navy officers and would put them through the four year Bachelor of Technology course now being offered to Indian Navy officers. It is learnt that this announcement followed a meeting between the Chief of Naval Staff and Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka. This has come as a great shock to the people of Tamil Nadu. In utter disregard of the sentiments and emotions of the people of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India is persisting with the policy of defence co-operation with the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. The commitment made by the Government of India is tantamount to actively working with the Sri Lankan regime and providing them with the necessary wherewithal to act even more strongly not only against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka, but also against the poor Indian fishermen who regularly bear the brunt of the brutal attacks of the Sri Lankan Navy.

I wish to convey our strong protest against this insensitive policy of defence co-operation with Sri Lanka, which totally ignores the impact it may have upon the feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu. I, therefore, request you to urgently review this policy and instruct the Ministry of Defence not to pursue the proposed training programme for Sri Lankan Naval officers by the Indian Navy.

May I request a line in reply?"

Hostels across the State for students of Backward Classes

Twenty two hostels for the Backward, Most Backward and the De-notified Community students and costing Rs. 12.90 crore were declared open across the State by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 9.12.2013.

The hostels are located at Nannilam, Tiruvarur District for the Most Backward (MBC) school boy students (Rs. 66.78 lakh); in Dindigul District at Thoppampatti for MBC school girl students (Rs. 48.41), at Thandikudi for Backward class (BC) school girl students (Rs. 57.43 lakh), at Dindigul for BC school girl students (Rs. 66.78 lakh), at Periakottai for BC school boy students (Rs. 66.78 lakh), at Chitthayankottai for de-notified school girl students (Rs. 66.78 lakh) and at Ottanchatram for MBC school boy students (Rs. 81 lakh);

-in Kancheepuram District at Chengalpet for BC college girl students (Rs. 54 lakh), at Madurantakam for MBC school girl students (Rs. 48.41 lakh);

- in Thanjavur District at Ooranipuram for BC school boy students (Rs. 54.74 lakh), at Thirupanthuruthi for MBC school boy students;

- in Cuddalore District at Anna village for MBC boy school students, (Rs. 54 lakh) at Virudachalam for MBC boy school students (Rs. 48.41 lakh);

- in Villupuram District at Thirunavalur for BC girl shool students (Rs. 54 lakh), and at Kallakurichi for MBC girl school students, (Rs. 48.41 lakh);

- at Aayakkaranpulam in Nagapattinam District for BC girl school students

(Rs. 90 lakh), at Kaarai in Perambalur District for BC boy school student (Rs. 54 lakh), at Gudalur in the Nilgiris District for BC college boy students (Rs. 60.25 lakh) and at Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram District for De-notified college boy students (Rs. 56.56 lakh);

- in Tiruchirapalli District at Mettupalayam for BC boy school students (Rs. 51.04 lakh), at Thuvvakudi for BC polytechnic college boy students (Rs. 56.15 lakh) and at Tiruchuzhi in Virudhunagar District for MBC girl school students (Rs. 54.56 lakh).

Through these new hostels – 11 for BC college and school students, 9 for MBC school students, and 2 for de-notified college and school student – 1,200 students will benefit.

These hostels have facilities such as granite dining tables, almirahs, fire-extinguishers, exhaust fans in kitchens, solar water heaters, refrigerators, compound wall and modular kitchen.

Grant doubled for Chennai Open Tennis contest

As a "Lead Platinum Sponsor", the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa sanctioned a financial assistance of Rs. 2 crore for the conduct of the "Chennai Open" tennis tournament to be held between 30.12.2013 and 5.1.2014 at the tennis court of the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority in Nungambakkam. Orders have been passed for the grant of similar assistance for the tournament to be held in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The Tamil Nadu Tennis Association had requested a greater contribution from the Tamil Nadu Government for conducting the 2012-2013 "Chennai Open" tennis tournament in a grand manner. Acceding to the request, the Hon'ble Chief Minister enhanced the assistance to Rs. 2 crore from Rs. one crore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already passed orders allotting Rs. 4.50 crore for developing the tennis court for conduct of international tournament.

Shop in Puzhal for products made by prisoners

A shop to market the products manufactured by prison inmates, a visitors' waiting hall, an inspection room and a waiting hall for constables were declared open at the Puzhal Prison complex in Chennai on 9.12.2013 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa.

An open air prison constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.41 crore at Purasadai Udaippu village in Sivangangai District was also declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. A bakery unit in Puzhal prison and phone facilities for prisoners in 9 central prisons, 3 women prisons and for the inmates of the Borstal school at Pudukottai were also inaugurated.

The Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been implementing several schemes for improving the efficiency of the prison department and for the rehabilitation of prisoners.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had ordered the setting up of shops in all Central prison complexes for marketing the products manufactured by prisoners, such as clothes, readymade garments, bakery products, footwear, soaps, candles, mosquito nets, raincoats and 'masala' powders. Accordingly, in the first phase, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open a shop at the Puzhal Prison complex from the Secretariat through video conferencing and inaugurated the sale of the products under the brand name "Freedom". This would induce prisoners to learn several crafts and earn wages according to their work.

The visitors waiting hall with all necessary basic facilities and inspection room measuring 3,358 sq. ft. has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 66.35 lakh.

Constables on escort duty to take prisoners safely to courts, hospitals and to other prisons as also those on prison security duty, have to wait in the prison and even stay back. The waiting hall for constables measuring 5,713 sq. ft and constructed at a cost of Rs. 72.43 lakh to accommodate 200 persons, will meet their needs.

At present, 2 open air prisons are functioning in the State - one at Singanallur in Coimbatore District and another at Salem. The idea is to give limited freedom to prisoners in the age group 21-55, with good physique and mental condition and train them in agricultural operations with their future rehabilitation in mind. Considering the interests of such eligible prisoners in Southern Districts, an open-air prison has been located on 97.4 acres of land at Purasadai Udaippu village in Sivangangai District at a cost of Rs. 2.41 crore.

A modern bakery unit has been set up in Puzhal Central Prison – I at a cost of Rs. 45 lakh and its products – bread, bun, cookies etc – are to be made available to other prisons and to Government hospitals. The training provided in the bakery unit, as in other trades, is to wean away the prisoners from criminal activities and help them get a job or become self-employed.

To enable prisoners speak to their advocates and to their family members, 54 telephone booths have been set up in 9 Central prisons, 3 women prisons and one Borstal school. The prison inmates can make use of the phone facility 3 times in a month, each time for 10 minutes' duration. ■

News in Picture

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 2.12.2013 presided at the Secretariat over a consultative meeting on the Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill. The Chief Secretary to Government, the Advocate General, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Principal Secretary, Public Department, Secretary, Law Department, Director General of Police and other high Government officials participated in the meeting.

POLICE TEAM WINS FOOTBALL TROPHY

The Tamil Nadu Police team won the runner-up silver medal and cup in the 62nd B.N. Mullik Memorial All India Police Football match held for the year 2013 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh between November 13 and 22.

The runner-up victory in this match is the first of its kind in the history of Tamil Nadu Police Department.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented at the Secretariat on 9.12.2013, a cheque for Rs. 30,000/- to each of the 22 police team members and lauded their victory.

Thirty police teams from all over India including the Central Police Force participated in the event. Thiru. Charles, Assistant Commandant was the manager of the Tamil Nadu team and Thiru. Elango was its trainer.

Speaking to the team, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said: "Congratulations to all of you. For the first time, the Tamil Nadu Police Department has bagged the prize in the All India Police Football match. You have brought glory to Tamil Nadu and to the Tamil Nadu Police Department. While lauding you all, I offer my good wishes to you to win more prizes in several other sports events".

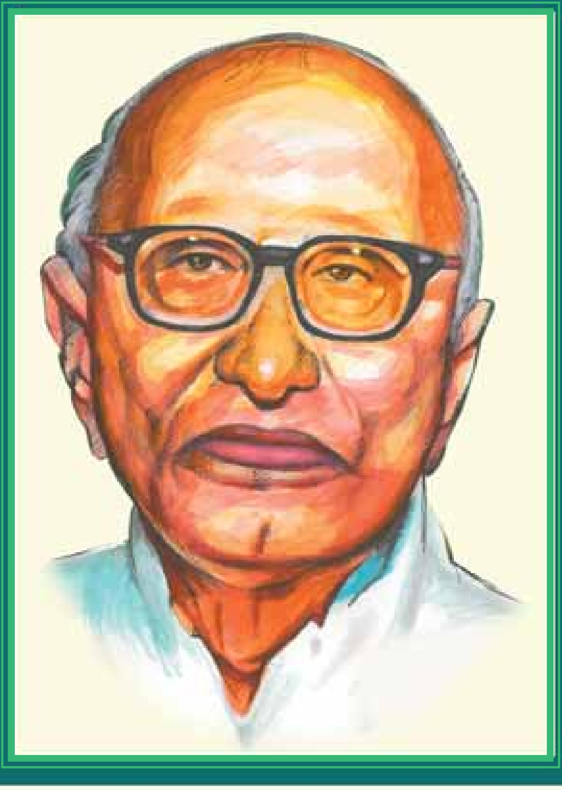
HOSTELS FOR WORKERS AT SRIPERUMBUDUR

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open on 9.12.2013 at the Secretariat through Video Conferencing two hostels for men and women constructed at a total cost of Rs. 9.81 crore at the SIPCOT Industrial Park, in Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram District.

With 5 SIPCOT Industrial Parks, Sriperumbudur has turned into a big industrial hub. Several thousand workers are employed both in the indigenous and multi-national industrial establishments in this region. Taking into account the economic conditions of these workers, two hostels have been constructed for providing separately cheap lodging facilities for men and women workers. The hostel for men workers, has come up on a 2.01 acre plot with a plinth area of 37,675 sq. ft. and at a cost of Rs. 4.45 crore. It can accommodate 400 persons. The women's hostel has come up on a 1.85 acre plot with a plinth area of 56,570 sq. ft and at a cost of Rs. 5.35 crore. It can accommodate 600 persons.

The hostels have all the facilities including kitchen, store room, dining hall, bathrooms, toilets, sump and overhead tanks, first aid centre and recreation halls. ■

Nightmare of nuclear arms



The subject of the evening is 'Mankind's self-made precipice'. I have borrowed this apt phrase from *The Times* of London.

It pains me very much that the Western powers are going wrong in what they are doing and that it has fallen to my lot to be pointing it out in unequivocal terms. I would have felt far happier perhaps if it had been the other way about and I had to point out only the faults of another party. I have said at another meeting how greatly we are bounden to America and I need not repeat the reason here. It is, however, good that I repeat my hope that what I say should be interpreted as the anxious thoughts of a friend and not as carping criticism from one who is not concerned in the welfare of America or the other Western powers.

So much has recently appeared in the daily press about nuclear weapons that everyone now knows quite a deal about them. It is possible to know a lot in a vague way and yet not have it all in order in the mind so as to be able to come to reasoned conclusions. The papers daily bring fresh news of what is done and said about these nuclear weapons. We may thus by verbal familiarity and repetition even lose the sense of danger about them. This is the reason why I am before you to attempt to explain the points involved.

Much has been said in defence of science in general, as if science stood accused, and we were in need of being told about the advantage of scientific knowledge and progress. I am completely in favour of the search of truth that is called science, lead it where it may. I do not for a moment support State or Church control over knowledge. It is impossible and undesirable to put restraints on the search for truth; but it is desirable and possible to put restraints on the application of what we unravel out of the mysteries of Nature. If we control our *application* of knowledge there is no danger in knowledge itself. The responsibility is on those who rule the affairs of men not to misuse science or employ men of science for wicked purposes.

From,
Rajaji Reader
Vyasa Publications

Welfare schemes galore for differently abled

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa's message on International Day for the Differently abled (English Translation)

The rights of the differently-abled must be protected. By way of reminding people about this, every year, December 3rd is observed as the "Day of the Differently abled". On this day, I extend my greetings to all the differently-abled persons.

My Government has been implementing several welfare schemes for the differently abled with the lofty ideal that they should get all the rights on par with others in the society. The measures include the setting up of a State Resources Centre, the first of its in the whole country for diagnosing the disability of the child and offering consultations and treatment through specialists and experts, and providing the needed implements, certificates, financial assistance and education to them, enhanced food allowances for the differently abled, three per cent reservation in the distribution of solar powered green houses, 75 per cent concession in bus fare in Government buses to outstation destinations, and extending the benefits of the Chief Minister Comprehensive Medical Insurance scheme to all the members of the family if one member is differently-abled.

Also, I wish to point out here, that I have issued orders for innumerable unique programmes in the interest of the differently abled. They include enhancing the bank credit subsidy to Rs. 10,000/- from Rs. 3,000/-for the differently abled, payment of full wages even for 4 hours work under the Employment Guarantee scheme, doubling the cash assistance to those who read out to the visually impaired and increasing the payment to Rs.250/- for scribe-assistance, increasing the number of the retrofitted petrol scooters for distribution to the differently abled to 1,000 from 400 and holding a Special Teacher Eligibility Test for the visually impaired who have completed the graduate teacher training so as to enable them to get jobs easily.

I am proud that Tamil Nadu has been selected by the Central Government for the National Award for being the best State in the country in implementing excellent schemes for the differently abled and that the 3 per cent reservation for the differently abled is implemented with vigour only in Tamil Nadu. I offer my good wishes to all the differently abled and wish them prosperity and a life with equal rights by making use of the welfare measures my Government is implementing.

14TH NOVEMBER WORLD DIABETES DAY

Drive detects Diabetics for Treatment

India is fast emerging as the global capital of Diabetes. By 2025, India is expected to have the highest incidence of diabetes in the world and will be the leading cause of death. An Indian Council of Medical Research INDIAB study in Tamil Nadu shows that the overall prevalence is 10.4% and the prevalence of diabetes is 13.5% and 7.8% respectively in urban and rural areas in the state.

Diabetes Mellitus is a metabolic disorder characterised by high level of Blood glucose resulting from defects in insulin production or in insulin action or both. If untreated, the disease affects many organs such as Heart, Eyes, Kidneys, Nerves, Foot etc... It also results in significant economic loss to the state unless addressed by adopting the principle of ‘Prevention is better than Cure’.

In order to detect and control the disease, the World Bank aided Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project (TNHSP) has taken up the component of implementing Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) Intervention Programme covering four diseases including Diabetes Mellitus in all districts of Tamil Nadu in a phased manner covering 16 phase I districts since July 2012 and rest of 16 phase II districts since April 2013.

The overall objective of the NCD Intervention program is to reduce morbidity and mortality due to Diabetes Mellitus through creating awareness on the risk factors, symptoms, benefits of regular screening and early detection and providing services in Govt. Health facilities. All men and women of 30 years and above attending 1612 Govt. Primary Health Centres, 270 Govt. Hospitals, 20 Govt. Medical Colleges Hospitals, 100 selected Municipal & Corporation Dispensaries and Hospitals and ESI Dispensaries and Hospitals for their health problem are being screened for detecting Diabetes Mellitus irrespective of presence of any symptom. All the newly detected Diabetic individuals will be provided further investigations, Treatment, Counselling on Life Style Modification, Follow- up and referral services at free of cost. All Govt. health facilities mentioned above have been equipped with necessary infrastructure, equipments, reagents and drugs required for screening and further follow- up.

Under NCD Intervention program so far, around 49,03,082 men and women were screened for Diabetes and out of which, 2,22,663 were detected positive during the period (July 2012 - September 2013) and are put on appropriate treatment and followed up periodically for control of disease and evaluation of complications.

In furtherance, to enhance the objectives of the programme, necessary IEC activities are also being conducted to make the people aware of the facilities to undergo screening for an early detection of presence of the disorder and to prevent the complications arising.

PREVENT DIABETES - SAVE ORGANS - ACHIEVE LONGEVITY

GET SCREENED FOR DIABETES MELLITUS & SAVE YOUR LIFE!!!

FILLIP TO SPORTS FACILITIES IN DISTRICTS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa commissioned at the Secretariat on 11.11.2013 facilities in 5 districts for sportspersons costing Rs. 4.64 crore and laid foundation stones for sports-related buildings and facilities in districts costing Rs. 10.07 crore.

The facilities commissioned are: an indoor squash court in the Tiruchirappalli District Anna Stadium with wooden flooring, glass partition, lighting and air-conditioning facility (Rs. 16.10 lakh), an indoor basketball stadium with lighting in the Tiruvannamalai District Stadium (Rs. 57.26 lakh), a 2,327.94 sq.metre swimming pool in the Ariyalur District Stadium (Rs. 75 lakh), a District sports complex with 400 metre race track, basketball, volleyball, kabaddi, kho kho courts and a football ground in Karur District (Rs. 1.96 crore), a sports hostel for boy students in Cuddalore District (Rs. 60 lakh) and a similar hostel for girl students in Dindugul District (Rs. 60 lakh).

Foundation stones are laid for a swimming pool in the Virudhunagar District (Rs. 80 lakh), a synthetic athletics track in the Anna Stadium in Tirunelveli District (Rs. 3.50 crore), sports hostel for boy and girl students at Ariyalur, Namakkal, Sivagangai, Theni and Thoothukudi Districts (Rs. 55.55 lakh each) and a multi-purpose indoor stadium in Thoothukudi Districts (Rs. 3 crore).

DRINKING WATER UPGRADATION WORKS FOR THOOTHUKUDI

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa laid the foundation stone through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 6.11.2013, for the Rs. 282.44 crore drinking water upgradation schemes in Thoothukudi Corporation and for a Rs. 60 crore sewage treatment plant there. She also inaugurated underground sewerage schemes costing Rs. 148.14 crore and declared open new buildings costing Rs. 7.85 crore in various Municipalities.

The Sewage Treatment Plant in Thoothukudi Corporation is on the DBFOT mode (Design, Build Finance, operate and transfer), will have 24 MLD (million litre per day) capacity and will treat sewage water and recycle it for industrial use.

The sewerage projects are in the Municipalities of Perambalur (Rs. 31.91 crore), Ramanathapuram (Rs. 31.51 crore), Chinnamanoor in Theni District (Rs. 14.52 crore), Dindigul (Rs. 46.15 crore) and Dharmapuri (Rs. 24.05 crore).

New Buildings

The new buildings declared open included a Rs. 4.95 crore bus stand at Tambaram in Kancheepuram District. The others are: an additional hostel buildings at the Tamil Nadu Institute of Urban Studies at Coimbatore (Rs. 75 lakh), a new office building in Nagapattinam Municipality (Rs. 1.15 crore) and the weekly shandy building in Chinnamanoor Municipality, Theni District (Rs. 1 crore). ■

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FIDE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH - 2013

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